

83-0034/1

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FIRST MEETING OF THE HISTORY ADVISORY BOARD

DCI Conference Room

10 a.m., Wednesday, 15 December 1982

Present: Charles A. Briggs (ExDir), Chairman
 Harry E. Fitzwater (DDA), Member
 Robert M. Gates (DDI), Member
 Evan Hineman (DDS&T), Member
 John H. Stein (DDO), Member
 J. Kenneth McDonald (C/DCI/HS),
 Executive Secretary of the Board

Also Present: John A. Bross, Special Advisor to the DCI
 Thomas B. Cormack, Executive Secretary of CIA

1. The Board convened at 10 a.m. with Mr. Briggs in the chair. The Chairman first noted that the Board had been established by HN [redacted] of 2 December 1982 (copy attached) to be responsible for approving new historical studies and for reviewing and deciding upon the circulation of histories as they are completed. The agenda for this first meeting had been circulated in advance (copy attached).

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2. Congress Study. The Executive Secretary of the Board, Mr. McDonald, presented the first item on the agenda, the proposal for a monographic study on "Congress and the CIA," for which a prospectus by staff historian [redacted] had been circulated to the Board with the agenda. Noting that usefulness to senior management was his principal criterion in selecting topics for monographic treatment, Mr. McDonald suggested that no subject was more important to the Agency's work and future than our relations with Congress. [redacted] study is designed to be about 200-300 typescript pages in length, at the SECRET level, and ready for review by October 1983. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Briggs supported the proposal and expressed his own view that the present state of the Agency's relations with the Congressional oversight committees leaves a great deal of room for improvement. Messrs. Stein and Fitzwater raised the question of whether it would be wise to produce such a study which might reopen old wounds of the 1970's investigations and antagonize Congress once it got access to it, as they felt confident Congress would. Although sharing this concern about the possible political sensitivity of the study, Mr. Hineman favored proceeding with the project. Mr. Bross, observing that the Department of State's Historian has a staff of nearly 50, suggested that if we do not write the history of the Agency's role in

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national policy someone else will, and not necessarily in the light that we see it. Speaking last, Mr. Gates weighed in heavily in favor of the proposed study. Noting that his own Directorate daily produces papers that displease some officials and bodies in Government, he strongly opposed any suggestion that the Agency should avoid undertaking otherwise useful studies simply because they might provoke disagreement in some quarter. He reminded members that the Board would have an opportunity to review the study at its completion, and suggested that once the work is completed and approved we should on our own initiative provide copies to Congress, or at least to the oversight committees. Mr. Gates also suggested that when completed this study should be made required reading for officers in mid-career training, since he finds widespread ignorance in the Agency of how both Congress and the Executive Branch work. At the conclusion of this discussion the Board approved the proposed study without dissent.

3. Overhead Reconnaissance Study. The second agenda item was the History Staff's request for guidance on the feasibility of undertaking a historical study of CIA's role in overhead reconnaissance. Mr. Briggs introduced the proposal by noting that the History Staff had a DDS&T officer on rotational assignment available to do this project, and that the idea of the study was not simply to chronicle systems and programs, but to chart and assess their effects on the Agency's business. After Mr. Hineman had spoken in support of the project, the rest of the Board agreed and approved the proposed study without dissent. Mr. McDonald undertook to coordinate closely with Mr. Hineman and his Directorate in pursuing this project.

4. DCI Studies. The third item of business was a report from Mr. McDonald on the History Staff's DCI studies. Three studies, for DCIs Helms, Schlesinger and Colby, are now underway, and should be completed in 1983. Mr. Casey has recently asked the History Staff to organize similar studies in this series for DCIs McCone, Raborn, Bush and Turner. The Board was of the opinion that while it is probably too early to write objective DCI studies on the tenures of Vice President Bush and Admiral Turner, the History Staff should press on now to interview both men and their principal assistants, and to collect data for later use in these two projected studies.

5. Access to Records. On the final agenda item, concerning access to Agency records, Mr. McDonald explained that the work on several studies has reached the stage where requests for documents will become more frequent. [redacted] (copy attached) grants the History Staff "access to all Agency records and personnel, subject to the approval of the Deputy Director or Head of Independent Office concerned," with the provision that the History Staff may appeal a refusal

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to the DCI. Mr. Fitzwater suggested that the best procedure would be for the History Staff to send its requests for documents to the Records Management Officer for the Directorate or Independent Office holding the required records. Mr. McDonald agreed that the History Staff's document request form (copy attached) would be so directed.

6. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

/S/

J. Kenneth McDonald
Executive Secretary

Attachments: 4

dtd 2 December 1982
 Agenda for History Advisory Board Meeting
 dtd 25 January 1982
 Document Request Form

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APPROVED:

Charles A. Briggs

11 JAN 1983

Charles A. Briggs, Chairman

Date

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ORGANIZATION

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2 December 1982

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HISTORY ADVISORY BOARD

No Field Counterpart to this HN

1. This notice announces the establishment of the History Advisory Board. The Board will be responsible for approving new historical studies and for reviewing and deciding upon the circulation of histories as they are completed.

2. Membership will consist of the Executive Director as Chairman; the Deputy Directors for Administration, Intelligence, Operations, and Science and Technology as Board members; and Chief, History Staff as Executive Secretary.

[Redacted]
John N. McMahon
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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13 December 1982

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- 1 - Chief, History Staff w/o
- 1 - John Bross w/o att
- 1 - DCI History Staff Chrono

13 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: History Advisory Board

FROM: J. Kenneth McDonald
Executive Secretary, History Advisory Board

SUBJECT: Agenda for 15 December 1982 Meeting

REFERENCE: [redacted] dated 25 January 1982,
"CIA History Staff"

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The Chairman of the History Advisory Board will convene its first meeting at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, 15 December 1982, in the DCI Conference Room. On the agenda are the following four matters:

1. Consideration of approval for a proposed History Staff study of "Congress and the CIA," for which a prospectus by Dr. [redacted], a staff historian, is attached.
2. Guidance on the feasibility of the History Staff undertaking a historical study of CIA's role in overhead reconnaissance up to about 1970.
3. Progress report on the three DCI studies (for Helms, Schlesinger and Colby) now underway, and notification of Mr. Casey's request that the History Staff now organize similar studies for DCIs McCone, Raborn, Bush and Turner.
4. Arrangements for History Staff access to records and personnel in all four Directorates as provided in reference, the History Staff charter.

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[redacted]
J. Kenneth McDonald

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Attachment

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This Notice Expires 1 August 1982

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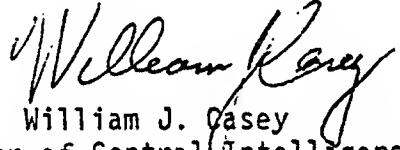
25 January 1982

CIA HISTORY STAFF

No Field Counterpart to this HN

1. The CIA History Staff, in the Office of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), has three principal objectives: to help preserve the Agency's historical records and institutional memory, to provide a specialized reference service, and to research and write the history of the CIA. The Chief Historian is responsible to the DCI for developing and implementing the Agency's History Program.

2. To accomplish its objectives, the History Staff is granted access to all Agency personnel and records, subject to the approval of the Deputy Director or Head of Independent Office concerned and the Executive Secretary. The History Staff may appeal a refusal to the DCI. Completed histories will be under the control of the DCI and the Deputy Director—or Head of Independent Office concerned.



William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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Date: _____

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM : J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, DCI/History Staff

SUBJECT : Document Request

REFERENCE : [REDACTED] 25 January 1982

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1. In accordance with the reference notice, the DCI/History Staff would like to borrow the following documents for approximately sixty days. A DCI/HS researcher will use these documents as source material for an official, classified CIA History.

Documents requested: _____

Covering period from _____ to _____

Originating component: _____

Current office of custody: _____

Records Management Officer: _____

2. Please send these documents within two weeks by appropriate channels to:

Records Management Officer
DCI/History Staff
316 Ames Building

3. If I can provide any additional information, please call me on extension [REDACTED]

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J. Kenneth McDonald

DCI/History Staff Use:

Request number: _____

Date Requested: _____

Date Received: _____

Date Returned: _____

DCI/HS Researcher: _____